

to transfer marijuana to Schedule 2, and in 1992 it issued a final rejection of all requests for reclassification.[2]

Some physicians will have the courage to challenge the continued proscription of marijuana for the sick. Eventually, their actions will force the courts to adjudicate between the rights of those at death's door and the absolute power of bureaucrats whose decisions are based more on reflexive ideology and political correctness than on compassion.

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2. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, Marijuana scheduling petition: denial of petition: remand. (Docket No. 86-22.) Fed Regist 1992;5759:10489-508.

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TRIBUTE TO REV. RONALD PACKNETT

HON. WILLIAM (BILL) CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 1997

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to pay tribute to my constituent and friend, Reverend Ronald Packnett, who died on December 17, 1996.

Rev. Packnett was an extraordinary community leader. He was a vital pillar of the St. Louis community. He pastored a prominent spiritual institution, Central Baptist Church in St. Louis, that has a progressive and active congregation. Under Rev. Packnett's leadership they become important activists in causes that affected the broader community.

I want to share with our colleagues an editorial that tells of the many lives Rev. Ronald Packnett touched both as a spiritual leader and friend of the community. This enlightening story entitled, "Packnett Touched Many Lives, Stood Up For Important Causes" was written by Gregory Freeman and appeared in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on December 20, 1996.

[From the St. Louis (MO) Post Dispatch,
Dec. 20, 1996]

PACKNETT TOUCHED MANY LIVES, STOOD UP
FOR IMPORTANT CAUSES

(By Gregory Freeman)

There's A void today at Del Monico's Diner. The Rev. Ronald Packnett, pastor of Central Baptist Church, was a fixture at the restaurant. He could be found at the restaurant at Delmar Boulevard and Euclid Avenue almost every morning, chowing down on one of their hearty pancakes-and-sausage breakfasts. And he had a passion for Del Monico's fried chicken legs.

Packnett, who died Tuesday at 45 after a long illness, called restaurant matriarch Eva Bodo his mother away from home. His mother lives in Chicago.

The Rev. Gary Tyler was busy working at Del Monico's on Tuesday when he learned of Packnett's death. He said Packnett was his mentor. "I was an associate pastor at Greater Paradise," Tyler said, "Rev. Packnett heard me preach and invited me to his church to speak. Before I knew it, I was speaking there all the time."

Packnett got Tyler, 31, the training he needed, and installed him at Central Baptist.

Other employees and customers overheard our conversation and joined in. "Rev. Packnett? He married me," one man called out.

"He baptized me," yelled another.

Bobo couldn't say enough about him. "He helped my granddaughter," she said. "He carried her to church every Sunday, and he had her involved in everything."

Packnett loved young people. "He'd always make sure the youth could take part in the National Baptist Convention every year," Tyler said.

"That's right," added Bobo, "my granddaughter got to go places she never could have gone."

"San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, wherever the convention was held, he always made sure that young people could go," Tyler said. "And then he made sure that they weren't just running around when they got to those cities. They always had some kind of class; and they went to places like churches and historical sites."

Some spoke of programs he had set up through the church, including one that provided clothes and lunch for the homeless every Tuesday, and a "Rites of Passage" African heritage program. Others talked about the hours he spent visiting sick church members at hospitals and in their homes.

In there's one thing a journalist learns early, it's that there are phonies and there are real articles.

Packnett was the real article.

While he often rubbed shoulders with mayors and congressmen and powerful people, he was clearly as much at ease with average people and willing to help anyone. Like the day the restaurant was shorthanded. Packnett took off his coat, went to the kitchen and cheerfully pitched in to wash dishes.

At 5 feet, 6 inches, Packnett wasn't tall in stature. But he was tall in the minds of those whose lives he touched. And he wasn't afraid to speak out, even when he knew he'd be sharply criticized.

Packnett took a great deal of heat last year from some blacks when he endorsed Francis Slay, who is white for president of the city's Board of Aldermen over his black opponent, Alderman Velma Jean Bailey. The criticism didn't bother him. "What's right is right," he said then.

Others didn't care for him four years ago when he made a stink after taking his two children to Union Station to see Santa and discovering that they had no black Santas. He called the company that supplies Santa to malls nationwide and learned the company had supplied no black Santas here.

He faxed letters to marketing directors at seven malls and a department store on behalf of the St. Louis Clergy Coalition, a group of black ministers that represents various denominations. The letter said, in effect, we spend money in your stores and we want a black Santa. Two of the malls told him they would hire a black Santa right away.

Last year, a day before the Million Man March, Packnett led more than 100 people in prayer at Central Baptist Church before they headed off to the event in Washington. After praying, he led the audience in song, delighting the crowd when he changed the words to a spiritual from "Ain't gonna let nobody turn me 'round" to "Ain't gonna let Newt Gingrich turn us 'round'."

The members of his church remember him best for his work at Central Baptist. "He was always helping people, doing for people, teaching people right from wrong," Bobo said.

"We'll not get any more pastors like that," Bobo said adding, "If they do, it'll probably be long after I'm not around anymore."

THE RETIREMENT OF REAR ADM.
LUTHER F. SCHRIEFER, USN

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 1997

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Rear Adm. Luther F. Schriefer, U.S. Navy, retired on February 1, 1997, after nearly 37 years of honorable and distinguished service.

Rear Admiral Schriefer served as the Division Director for the Navy's Environmental Protection, Safety and Occupational Health Division since November 1994. As the Navy's senior environmentalist, he was responsible for several key initiatives that have enabled the Navy to operate in harmony with the natural environment by achieving safe and environmentally sound ships, aircraft, and installations. He has testified before congressional committees to ensure that members and their staffs understand the Navy's impact on the environment, as well as the effects of environmental laws and regulations on the operations of our Nation's Navy.

Prior to his assignment as the senior environmentalist, he was the Director, Inter-American Region, International Security Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense. He was the director of the Caribbean task force during the 1994 Haitian and Cuban crises. Prior to his assignment for the Secretary of Defense, he was the Commander at the Naval Base in San Diego.

Rear Admiral Schriefer was assigned to numerous other commands over the course of his distinguished career, including Commander, Anti-Submarine Warfare Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet at Naval Air Station North Island and Director Tactical Air, Surface, Electronic Warfare Research and Development (OP-982). He was selected for two commands at sea: the amphibious assault ship USS *Belleau Wood* (LHA 3) and the amphibious cargo ship USS *Mobile* (LKA 115). He also held three air commands: the Air Anti-Submarine Wing 1 at Cecil Field, FL, Carrier Wing 3 onboard the USS *Saratoga* (CV-60) and Air Squadron VS-22 aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Intrepid* (CV 11). He served his country as an officer at the VRC-50 Detachment at Danang Air Base, Republic of South Vietnam, and VS-28 on board the USS *Independence* (CV-61).

Rear Admiral Schriefer has enjoyed several proud moments in his service to our country, including several exhilarating moments as a junior officer flying for our Navy resolving technical challenges associated with his aircraft's performance. He retires as the Navy's "Gray Eagle," a term reserved for the senior aviator in the Navy.

Rear Admiral Schriefer is a native of Oshkosh, WI. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1960 and was designated a naval aviator in October 1961. He studied naval communications management at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. He also attended the Naval War College in Newport, RI, and graduated in June 1971. He was awarded a master of science degree in international affairs from George Washington University. He is married to the former Sandra N. Swanson of Detroit, MI. The Schriefer family have four children: Kim, Scott, Michael, and Kelly.